

Questions about the Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Card and \$600 credit for I/T/U Pharmacies

Why should an I/T/U pharmacy accept Medicare-approved drug discount cards?

If American Indians or Alaska Natives with Medicare use the \$600 credit on their drug card at a pharmacy operated by an Indian health program, that is, as the Indian Health Service, a Tribe, a Tribal organization, or an urban Indian organization (I/T/U), the pharmacy will be reimbursed for the prescription. This means that the I/T/U pharmacy will have more money to provide other services to the people it serves.

Who figures out how much pharmacies are reimbursed for prescriptions bought with a Medicare-approved drug discount card?

The drug card sponsors and I/T/U pharmacies will agree on a reimbursement amount. The decision must meet all Federal laws.

Will CMS provide sample drug card sponsor contract language to I/T/U pharmacies and drug card sponsors?

Indian Health Service (IHS) has negotiated national contracts with the drug card sponsors for all pharmacies directly administered by the IHS. Sample contract language has been developed for pharmacies administered by Tribes, Tribal Organizations and Urban programs. These pharmacies may use this sample contract language or propose contract language from previous or current pharmaceutical services contracts to drug card sponsors.

Do I/T/U pharmacies have to join the Medicare-approved drug discount cards specially designed for use in I/T/U pharmacies?

No. Sponsors will give I/T/U pharmacies in their service area an opportunity to join, but participation is voluntary. The Indian Health Service has signed national contracts to include all of its pharmacies in the networks of both special cards.

How do I/T/U pharmacies join the networks of these specially designed Medicare-approved drug discount cards?

There are two sponsors that have been approved to offer these types of cards: Pharmacy Care Alliance (PCA) and Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC). They will work through the Indian Health Service to contact I/T/U pharmacies. Sponsors of these special cards will give all I/T/U pharmacies in their service area an opportunity to join, but participation is voluntary.